To: Harrison, Melissa[Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov]
Cc: Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]; Reynolds, Thomas[Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; Abrams, Dan[Abrams.Dan@epa.gov]; Hull, George[Hull.George@epa.gov]
From: Smith, Paula
Sent: Sat 8/8/2015 7:38:52 PM
Subject: Re: CO mine inquiries

Rich is out all weekend. Please talk to Lisa directly and cc me. Press call is 3:00 MST. Will forward invite if you didn't get it.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 7, 2015, at 8:59 AM, Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov> wrote:

> Rich-what time is the press conference today? Can reporters dial into it?
>
> **From:** Purchia, Liz
> **Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 10:41 AM
> **To:** Mylott, Richard
> **Cc:** Smith, Paula; Reynolds, Thomas; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica; Abrams, Dan; Hull, George
> **Subject:** CO mine inquiries
>
> Please keep us posted as things progress today. It would be helpful to see any new statements that get put out. We will continue to direct reporters to you.
>
> Dan Abrams is compiling press clips and will share with this group.
>
> Liz Purchia
>
> U.S. EPA
>
> 202-564-6691
>
> 202-841-2230
>
> On Aug 6, 2015, at 2:30 PM, Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> Thanks, I shared statement, will follow up.

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 12:30 PM
To: Smith, Paula; Reynolds, Thomas; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica
Cc: Mylott, Richard
Subject: RE: statement

stephanie.ogburn@kunc.org is looking to speak with someone from R8

From: Smith, Paula
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Purchia, Liz; Reynolds, Thomas; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica
Cc: Mylott, Richard
Subject: RE: statement

OSCs are working on that now. Meeting with them at 1:00 MST again.

- Paula

From: Purchia, Liz
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 11:47 AM
To: Smith, Paula; Reynolds, Thomas; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica
Subject: RE: statement

What will we say if asked how it was unexpectedly triggered?

From: Smith, Paula
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 1:46 PM
To: Reynolds, Thomas; Purchia, Liz; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica
Subject: FW: statement

Updated desk statement. Out to press and Congressionals. Hoping to get more detail from OSC this afternoon.

- Paula

For use…

kwyatt@ap.org; dschwartz@daily-times.com; bfinley@denverpost.com; shane@durangoherald.com;

August 6 EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release

Yesterday, an EPA team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

Following the release, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment notified water users downstream so they could take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes.

The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. As a precaution, EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users. EPA will also be assessing damage near the mine portal and any residual releases of water at the mine site.